Vol. XXV 1908

General Notes.

Black Brant and Marbled Godwit on Long Island, N. Y.— On March 31, 1908, in a heavy southeaster, while lying in a battery for Brant in the Great South Bay, near Babylon, L. I., a flock of seven came to the decoys. All were seen plainly. Six were of the common variety, while the seventh was so much darker in appearance than the rest, that I immediately shot and secured it. The bird proved to be a remarkably fine old male Black Brant (*Branta nigricans*). I think this is the first Long Island record in a number of years.

The Great Marbled Godwit (*Limosa fedoa*), while never common on Long Island, has become now quite rare, so I wish to record a specimen taken by my brother, Harold E Herrick, at Lawrence on August 21, 1907, and another taken by myself at the same place July 21, 1900 — NEWBOLD L. HERRICK, New York City.

Ardea egretta in New Jersey.— On July 6, 1908, my friend Mr. Ralph B. Romaine of New York shot at Black Point, Rumson Borough, Monmouth Co., N. J., an America Egret (*Ardea egretta*). The bird was in company with another which Mr. Romaine writes me "stayed around until about a week ago (July 24) when it was shot, by whom, or where, I do not know."

The specimen was not sexed by the taxidermist, and is now mounted and in the possession of Mr. Romaine, 'The Ledges,' Seabright, N. J.— REGINALD HEBER HOWE, JR., Concord Mass.

American Avocet (Recurvirostra americana) in Camden Co., Georgia.— As I know of no other record of the American Avocet (Recurvirostra americana) having been taken in Georgia, and am quite sure no other has been taken in this county, I would like to make a note of one taken by me on Oct. 8, 1903, and now in my possession. When taken it was feeding, in its peculiar way, in shallow water on the river front at the foot of one of the streets in St. Marys. It proved to be a female.— ISAAC F. ARNOW, St. Marys, Ga.

Bartramian Sandpiper in Wayne Co., Michigan.— In 'The Auk' for July, 1908 (p. 328), Mr. P. A. Taverner records a Bartramian Sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*) for Wayne County and says, "This bird had been deemed extinct in the County for some years." It is true that in the more densely populated districts along the Detroit River this sandpiper was obliterated, as a breeding bird, some twenty years ago and seems unable to reinstate itself, which probably explains its gradual extermination in many portions of the eastern States where formerly abundant, but in the northwestern portion of Wayne County it is still a summer resident. While tramping across the county in the early summer of 1907 Mr. Herbert H. Spicer and the writer met with it in Canton Township, and Mr. Robert C. Alexander collected a set of eggs in Livonia Township. Mr. James B. Purdy of Plymouth once treated the writer to a verbal description of its nesting habits in Plymouth Township, mentioning the male as frequently uttering its love notes while wheeling high in the air, and describing the solicitude of the adults for their young. The writer recently wrote him for more accurate data and his reply under date of July 17, 1908, is in part as follows: "I first discovered the Bartramian Sandpiper in the spring of 1873 — a single pair — and whether they bred or not that year I cannot say. I did not see them again for some years but for the past fifteen years they have been a constant breeder at this place. I have two sets of eggs collected here; one set of three taken May 5, 1899, and one set of four taken May 10, 1899. The first set was fresh and the second slightly incubated. They were in the same field within ten rods of each other. Another set was found here but I did not get the particulars. The birds have been with us here all this spring, but are at present hiding in the tall grass and hay fields. Would like to have you see their peculiar actions while nesting and hear them whistle while in mid air."

PINE SISKIN, Spinus pinus.— In the same note Mr. Taverner also conveys an erroneous impression of the local status of the Pine Siskin. The writer has observed more than a hundred during the last eighteen years, mainly in the northeastern portion of the county. The bird is less abundant and even more erratic than the Redpoll.— J. CLAIRE WOOD, Detroit, Michigan.

Krider's Hawk and the English Sparrow Nesting Together.— During a recent trip to the Dismal River in the Sand Hill region of northwestern Nebråska, I found, some fifteen or sixteen miles away from any habitation, a nest of Krider's Hawk from which I took on May 25 two well incubated eggs. One was beautifully colored while the other was immaculate. In the lower part of the nest, which was constructed of coarse sticks, a pair of English Sparrows were nesting. I did not take either of the hawks, believing it a crime to destroy such a beautiful bird that is now so rare. The male was rarely seen, but the female might easily have been shot when flushed from the nest. She was exceedingly wild and elusive and when flushed did not return to the nest for a considerable time, and then by a round-about course, and with great caution. I had the pair under observation for two days before taking the eggs.— JOHN LEWIS CHILDS, *Floral Park*, *N*. Y.

Migration of Hawks.— In Mr. Justus von Lengerke's note on 'Migration of Hawks' (Auk, XXV, pp. 315-316), the line of migration is described as toward the Delaware Water Gap and, as my observations covered that portion, I would like to report what I saw in 1904 while living in Shawnee, four miles up the river.

The line of flight for hawks, and also other birds, such as Crows, Blackbirds, Nighthawks, etc., was down the west side of the river just below the crest of the hills until reaching a point about two miles above the Gap, when they would invariably rise over a low corner of the hills and pass on